

**BRATIANO LOSES HIS TEMPER.**

**Roumanian Jewish Representatives Do Not Allow Themselves to Be Intimidated Into Giving Up Their Demand for Citizenship.**

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By Leo Wolfson.

All Roumanian governments without exception have always refused to recognize the Jewish organizations which were engaged in the fight to secure political emancipation, and often they were plainly hostile to them and characterized them as menaces to the interests of the government.

The administration of Mr. Bratiano was no exception in this respect. Circumstances, however, decreed that the bitterest enemy of the Union of Native Jews in Roumania should give it the greatest recognition and consideration. In November, 1918, the government decided to carry through a law decree by which the Jewish question was to be solved, and the Minister of the Department of Justice, Mr. Buzduhan, was delegated to prepare this decree.

After its acceptance by the Cabinet, it had to be submitted to the King for approval. When the decree was ready, the committee of the "Union" which had been in touch with Bratiano, was invited to come to discuss it with him, the date set being November 18th, 1918. The committee, consisted of Dr. Filderman, as chairman, and Messrs. Meyersohn and Ettinger. Upon their arrival at the Ministry, they were astonished to find besides Mr. Bratiano, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Buzdugan, the Minister of Agriculture and the most important the Minister of the Cabinet, Mr. Duka, the

Minister of Interior Affairs, Mr. Maricescu the minister of industry, Mr. Constaninescu, and the former Roumanian envoy in Washington, Dr. Angelescu, who is now Minister of Education.

This was actually the first time in the history of Roumania when practically the entire cabinet was present to consider an important problem together with official representatives of the Roumanian Jews. Mr. Bratiano personally introduced the committee to the other ministers as the representatives of the Union of Native Jews.

Mr. Bratiano opened the meeting with a short address in which he declared that the government was prepared to issue a law decree which would give the Jews political rights, and that he had invited the committee to hear the decree and to get their opinions on it. He had been waiting, he stated, for an opportune moment for presenting the decree, and that moment had now arrived. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Buzdugan, was then asked to read the decree.

Mr. Buzdugan began with the statement that the Liberal Party had long ago resolved to solve the Jewish problem, and that the former Liberal Cabinet, under the leadership of General Coanda had already submitted a naturalization law, but that it had not been as broad and all-inclusive as Mr. Bratiano had desired. Mr. Buzdugan read several paragraphs of the decree and then interpreted the contents of the rest. This decree has already been summarized in one of my correspondences from Paris.

Dr. Felderman, chairman of the Jewish committee, was next granted the floor, and his words were as follows: "Gentlemen, I wish to say that

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